

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing self-destructing electronic mail messages, comprising:

receiving a request to send a self-destructing electronic mail message, the request comprising a message body and a time period within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed;

determining if an intended recipient's electronic mail server application supports receiving self-destructing electronic mail messages;

if the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages, notifying a sender that the intended recipient's mail server does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages;

transmitting the request to an electronic mail client application; and

destroying all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message after the time period has elapsed, wherein the all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises a plurality of electronic copies of the self-destructing electronic mail message stored in at least one of the following: computer system memory and a mass storage device.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the time period comprises an indication that the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed after it has been opened and closed on the electronic mail client application.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
transmitting an electronic mail message to the electronic mail client application indicating that the self-destructing electronic mail message has been destroyed after the destruction of the self-destructing electronic mail message.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the electronic mail message sent to the electronic mail client application after the destruction of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises an identity of the sender of the self-destructing electronic mail message and an indication that the self-destructing electronic mail message was sent and destroyed.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:
encrypting the self-destructing electronic mail message prior to transmitting the self-destructing electronic mail message to the electronic mail client application.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing self-destructing electronic mail messages, the method comprising:

receiving a request to transmit a self-destructing electronic mail message comprising a message body and a time period within which all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed, wherein the all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises a plurality of electronic copies of the self-destructing electronic mail message stored in at least one of the following: computer system memory and a mass storage device; [[and]]

determining if an intended recipient's electronic mail server application supports receiving self-destructing electronic mail messages;

if the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages, notifying a sender that the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages; and

transmitting the self-destructing electronic mail message only to an electronic mail server application configured to provide self-destructing electronic mail messages.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a self-destructing electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server application; and

destroying all instances of the electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server after a period of time specified in the self-destructing electronic mail message has elapsed.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing
electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail
message from being printed.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing
electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail
message from being forwarded.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing
electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail
message from being saved.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[12]]~~ 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing
electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail
message from being moved.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[13]] 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing
electronic mail message in a manner that prevents the self-destructing electronic mail
message from being moved ~~copied or cut~~ to a clipboard.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[14]] 8, further comprising:
restricting a set of operations that may be performed on the self-destructing
electronic mail message in a manner that prevents a screen display containing the self-
destructing electronic mail message from being captured.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[2]] 1, further comprising:
providing a security warning message prior to transmitting the request in
response to determining that an intended recipient of the self-destructing electronic mail
message is located beyond a home domain associated with the electronic mail server
application.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system for providing self-destructing electronic
mail messages, the system comprising:
an electronic mail server application, comprising:

means for receiving ~~operative to receive~~ a request to transmit a self-destructing electronic mail message,

means for transmitting ~~operative to transmit~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message to an electronic mail client application, and

means for causing ~~to cause~~ all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message to be destroyed after a period of time specified in the request, wherein the all instances of the self-destructing electronic mail message comprises a plurality of electronic copies of the self-destructing electronic mail message stored in at least one of the following: computer system memory and a mass storage device,

wherein the electronic mail server application determines if an intended recipient's electronic mail server application supports receiving self-destructing electronic mail messages, and if the intended recipient's electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages, notifying a sender that the intended recipient's electronic mail server does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages; and
an electronic mail client application, comprising:

means for transmitting ~~operative to transmit~~ the request to the electronic mail server application, the request comprising an electronic mail message body and

means for specifying a period of time within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 19, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for receiving ~~operative to receive~~ a self-destructing electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server application and means for destroying ~~to destroy~~ the electronic mail message sent from the electronic mail server after a period of time specified in the self-destructing electronic mail message has elapsed.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[20]]~~ 19, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for preventing ~~operative to prevent~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message from being printed.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[21]]~~ 19, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for preventing ~~operative to prevent~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message from being forwarded.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 19, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for preventing ~~operative to prevent~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message from being saved.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[23]]~~ 19, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for preventing ~~operative to prevent~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message from being moved.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[25]]~~ 19, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for preventing operative-
~~to prevent~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message from being moved ~~copied or cut~~
to a clipboard.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[25]]~~ 19, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for preventing operative-
~~to prevent~~ a screen display containing the self-destructing electronic mail message from
being captured.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the period of time within which the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed comprises an indication that the self-destructing electronic mail message should be destroyed immediately after it has been read on the electronic mail client application.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 20, wherein the electronic mail server application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for transmitting operative-to-transmit an electronic mail message to the electronic mail client application indicating that the self-destructing electronic mail message has been destroyed after the destruction of the self-destructing electronic mail message.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim ~~[[28]]~~ 19, wherein the electronic mail server application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for encrypting ~~operative to encrypt~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message and wherein the electronic mail client application comprises means for decrypting ~~is operative to~~ the self-destructing electronic mail message.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 29, wherein the electronic mail client application ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises means for providing ~~operative to~~ a security warning message prior to transmitting the request in response to determining that the ~~[[an]]~~ intended recipient of the self-destructing electronic mail message is located beyond a home domain associated with the electronic mail server application.

31. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing an email address for the intended recipient whose electronic mail server application does not support self-destructing electronic mail messages.

32. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein notifying the sender comprises providing a user interface window and giving the sender an option to proceed with sending the self-destructing electronic mail message or canceling the self-destructing electronic mail message.